[Translation]

Misuse of Untouchability Law

3677. SHRI JAGATVIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the law pertaining to untouchability is being misused in villages and reports against a lot of innocent, upper caste and backward class persons are being registered under this law;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to check misuse of the same?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Pending Border Disputes Between States

3678. SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of border dispute between some States pending with the Union Government for a solution;

(b) the dates from which these border disputes are pending with the Government; and

(c) the details of the efforts made by the Government to make a solution for them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c) The following Inter-State boundary disputes are pending:—

(i) Maharashtra-Karnataka-Kerala boundary disputes.

(ii) Punjab-Haryana-Himachal Pradesh boundary disputes.

(iii) Orissa-West Bengal boundary dispute over village Shakhamochi.

(iv) Tamil Nadu-Kerala border dispute over Kannagi Temple.

(v) Uttar Pradesh-Bihar Border dispute.

No formal complaint regarding the dispute at serial no. (iii) above has been received from the concerned State Governments. The dispute between Tamil Nadu and Kerala is in regard to the precise location of the Kannagi Temple.

The Maharashtra-Karnataka-Kerala boundary disputes and the Punjab-Haryana-Himachal Pradesh border disputes are pending ever since the reorganisation of States in 1956 and the reorganisation of the composite State of Punjab in 1966 respectively. While the Maharashtra-Karnataka-Kerala border disputes relate to conflicting territorial claims over certain border villages, the Punjab-Haryana border dispute relates to transfer of Chandigarh to Punjab and some Hindi speaking areas from Punjab to Haryana in lieu of Chandigarh.

The Uttar Pradesh-Bihar border dispute is on account of change of names of certain villages in the process of transfer/re-transfer of these villages between the two States.

While the Central Government has made efforts from time to time to help resolve the disputes, it is essentially for the State Governments concerned to amicably resolve their differences. The Central Government will be happy to extend all possible assistance to the State Governments concerned in this regard.

Exploitation of Children

3679. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "The people Trade" appearing in the 'Times of India', dated January 28, 1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Old Age and Orphanage Homes

3680. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of old age homes and orphanages functioning in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the number of elder citizens and orphan children kept there;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up more old age homes and orphanages in Uttar Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?